

REMARKS

The foregoing remarks are responsive to the non-final Office Action issued March 17, 2004. Claims 1-4 have been allowed. Applicants thank Examiner for recognition of the allowable subject matter of claims 1-4.

The Action objected to the layout of the specification, specifically objecting to the absence of headings. Responsive to the objection, Applicants have amended the specification to include headings consistent with the Action.

The Action asserts that 8 foreign patent documents listed on the previously submitted PTO-1449 were not considered, as copies of these documents were allegedly not submitted to the Patent Office. In Appendix A, Applicants attach a post card evidencing submission of these foreign patent documents on August 19, 2003. To further advance prosecution, Applicants hereby submit an Information Disclosure Statement along with a PTO-1449 that includes these 8 previously submitted foreign patent documents as well as copies of these aforementioned references.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that these previously submitted references be considered and that the application is in condition for allowance.


Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below-listed number. Applicants have included payment for the two month extension fee. If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment has been made the Commissioner is authorized to charge

00137.00027

or credit Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 19, 2004

By: 
Steven P. Schad
Registration No. 32,550

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
1001 G Street, N.W.
Eleventh Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
(202) 824-3000

00137.00027